(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to allocate blocks for exploration of oil and gas to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL) on nomination basis in the areas of Saurashtra and Kutch regions;

(b) whether other national and international companies are not interested in coming to these regions; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), launched in 1997, the Government of India adopted international competitive bidding system for offering acreages for exploration and production of oil and gas in the country. NELP has provided a level playing field wherein bids are invited from private and public sector companies- both Indian as well as foreign.

Even National Oil Companies, *viz.* Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) etc. are not awarded blocks on nomination basis as they have to compete with other private/public sector companies under NELP. Therefore, it would not be possible to allocate any block to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) on nomination basis.

(b) A number of National and International companies are working in the State of Gujarat for exploration of oil and gas including Kutch region.

One onland block in Kutch area namely GK-ON-4 was awarded to M/s Focus Energy in Pre-NELP round.

Five shallow water blocks in Saurashtra-Kutch region were awarded to M/s Reliance and Hardy Exploration and Production in India in Pre-NELP and NELP round.

(c) Government is upgrading the geological data of Kutch-Saurashtra region for bring more blocks to offer in future bidding rounds.

Fall in prices of crude oil

411. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the international prices of crude oil has declined during the last four months;

(b) if so, the reasons for not reducing the prices of diesel and petrol as a consequence of decline in crude oil in the country; and

(c) the details of weekly prices of crude oil during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Indian basket of crude oil which touched an all time high of $142.04/bbl on 03/07/2008 has declined since then. The monthly average price of Indian basket of crude oil during the last four months are as under:

Month	$/bbl
June' 08	129.72
July' 08	132.47
August' 08	113.05
September' 08	96.81

(b) In spite of the recent fall in the international oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) continue to suffer substantial under-recoveries. The under-recoveries of OMCs on the marketing of diesel and petrol, based on refinery gate prices applicable as on 16.10.2008, are Rs. 6.45 per litre and Rs. 2.37 per litre respectively.

(c) The details of weekly crude oil prices of Indian Basket* during the last three months are as under:

($/Barrel)

Month	Week1	Week2	Week3	Week4	Week5
July'08	140.16	137.26	132.66	125.54	122.9
August'08	118.47	110.95	110.54	112.44	111.77
September'08	104.53	97.9	89.02	97.62	92.27

*Indian Basket Crude prices comprise of average of Oman and Dubai Crude and Brent Crude in the proportion of 62.3:37.7

Decline in production from Mumbai high

412. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that crude oil production from Mumbai High oilfield would go down to around 10 million tons in 2011-12 from the present production of nearly 12 million tons;

(b) if so, whether other offshore oil fields would be facing shortage in crude oil output during the next five years; and

(c) whether latest state-of-the-art updated technology is being used to produce oil from offshore fields, or we still continue to adopt old oil technology as Planning Commission had pointed out last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The planned crude oil production during the year 2011-12 is 10.362 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) which is marginally less from the present level of production of 12 MMT as envisaged during preparation of XI Plan. However with the implementation of Mumbai High Redevelopment scheme Phase-II, additional crude oil production during the year 2011-12 is expected to be around 1 MMT.